

Wespress for August 2009

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Coming Events

Thursday	10 Sept	7:00 p.m.	CGIT re-opens
Thursday	10 Sept	7:30 p.m.	Choir practices resume
Sunday	13 Sept	10:30 a.m.	Church Rally followed by sub-lunch - Care and Share Sunday
Wednesday	16 Sept	7:00 p.m.	Teacher Training in Parlour
Sunday	20 Sept	After worship	Small group discussion – Phase 1 Future Planning
Friday	25 Sept	5:00 p.m.	Young Adult Supper and Movie
Sunday	27 Sept	After worship	Small group discussion – Phase 1 Future Planning
Sunday	4 Oct	3:00 p.m.	Song recital by Aled Wyn Davies accompanied by Alan Tickets \$15 (Students \$5)
Saturday	31 Oct	9 am – 1 pm	Bazaar - see article further down in Wespress
Sunday	8 Nov		Deadline for next Wespress
Sunday	13 Dec	10:30 a.m.	Service with Christmas choir music
Sunday	21 Feb	After service	Scheduled date for Annual General Meeting

Please see important notice from Clerk of Session on the back of this Wespress

Anu Bose has been appointed to the International Affairs Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada by the General Assembly meeting in Hamilton earlier this year. She will serve for a three-year term.

The theme for the International Affairs Committee for this coming year is Climate Change. The report writing committee will be meeting in mid-September.

Anu hopes to report to the congregation in Wespress.

If anyone is interested in Michelle's summer research work at the University of Guelph on "coffee" they

might be interested in this website and article on her professor and the area of research:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/atguelph/06-09-13/featuresrust.shtml>

Westminster Garage Sale

Thanks to everyone who participated and attended the Garage Sale which was held on Sat., June 6. Special thanks should go to the table convenors:

Debbie Jones and Margaret Jones for the Plants
 Ernie Dance for Miscellaneous Furniture,
 Electronics and Miscellaneous Items
 Mary Ann Tyler for Table Treasures
 Bill Rankin for Books,
 Judy Banks, Jason Connors and Stan Pilcher for Children's Corner,
 Shirley Stubbs and Marg Quinney for Bake Shop,
 Wendie McCaffrey for Coffee and Muffins,
 Bill Miller for Set-up and Tear-down.

Plus, a big thank you for those who provided baking as it pushed us over the top.

We made over \$3,706.00

Based on an evaluation of the event, it has been decided that next year's sale will focus on Baking, Plants, Books, Children's Corner, and the Coffee and Muffins. We determined that furniture and

electrical goods are less in demand so we will be dropping them next year. Furthermore, we plan to have a table for special items, such as china, glasses, kitchenware, decorative items, that are smaller and if not sold are more easily disposed of.

It should be added that next March or April we will be holding a Saturday morning session to cull the books, so that they will be ready for the sale on the first Saturday in June.

John Tyler

CGIT NEWS:

The new year of fun activities for Westminster CGIT will begin on Thursday September 10th from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Lower Hall. While we are mourning the loss of our beloved Shirley Sandziuk (aka Sandy), we will be welcoming a new Leader to begin the new year. Sue Robertson is joining our leadership team that will now consist of Carol Ann Joiner, Sharon Tinkess, Jocelyn Richard-Livingstone, Maureen Cleary, Sue Robertson and when possible, Bonnie Preece.

Some of the fun activities for the year are going to include: Honey-thon for Kalalla in October; games; singing; Winter Camping; Vespers in December just to name a few. So...if you want to take part in a fun year and are a girl ages 10-16 come join us on Thursday nights!!

P.S. We usually have some fun snacks too!!

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS:

Here's hoping that everyone is having a happy and healthy summer! I know I've been busy with CY09 and planning for the new year in Church School...and it's going to be a wonderful one!

We are excited to be introducing a brand new curriculum. "Spark" focuses on a Bible-centred lesson plan, encouraging the children to use their own Bible to learn the weekly stories. On Rally Sunday, Sept.13th, the children will be presented with their own Bibles for use in the classroom. Also on Rally Sunday, there will be a sub-sandwich lunch after the service for the entire Congregation. Please watch your mailboxes in the next few weeks for a

letter from Sharon and a registration form for each child. We need to have the registration forms filled in and brought back to the Church on Rally Sunday so that we comply with the Leading with Care policy of the national church.

Teaching this coming year will come from 3 teams of 2 teachers. Each team will teach for two weeks, then have four weeks off. With this team approach, each teacher will serve two, 2-week sessions between Sept. and Dec. On Wed. Sept 16th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. there will be a time for teachers to gather to fulfil our Leading With Care orientation (safe church policy) and have an introduction to the curriculum and lesson plans. As of now, we still need at least 3 more teachers to work with us in the Church School. Please think and pray about this wonderful opportunity to work with the children of Westminster. If you feel that this would be something you would like to be a part of, please call or email Sharon Tinkess (613-843-9488 or sharonmcn@rogers.com) or call the Church office (613-722-1144).

Mission and Outreach Team Report

One significant outcome of Westminster's Church Development initiative (which had utilized the S.W.O.T. - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis) was the decision to reform our governance structure by the creation of a number of Teams. Reporting to Session, these teams are tasked with responsibilities and empowered to act within their mandates. It has been said that Committees discuss; Teams take actions.

The Mission and Outreach Team is one of the new Teams thus established and its mandate is of great importance, given the Christian duty to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the prisoner. A study of western social history reveals how many of our charitable institutions - such as hospitals, schools, universities and soup kitchens were originally set up by Christian religious organizations. Our Team will, of course, support the efforts of long-established Westminster mission projects such as cheese sandwich-making for the street people, helped out by Centre 507 and the preparation of bags for distribution by the Mennonite Church but it will also consider and recommend additional outreach opportunities that the congregation may wish to embrace. At its initial meeting on June 15, the Team came up with two proposals, both of which have been endorsed by Session: (1) four times per year a representative of some mission - whether local, national or overseas - be invited to give an address from the pulpit at a Sunday service. This would be arranged between the Minister and the Team; (2) starting this September, the baskets containing the monthly donations of food for the poor will be brought up along with the collection. This will honour the giving of such practical aid to the needy and should encourage the congregational support for this small but not unimportant form of Christian outreach. Among the items most required are: baby food, peanut butter, canned meat and vegetables, Kraft dinner. Our food donations go to All Saints Anglican in Westboro while men's toiletries are taken to Centre 507, women's to The Well at St. John's Anglican.

The next meeting of this Team is set for Monday, September 21 at 7:30 in the Campbell Room. New members wishing to participate in the work of the Team will be most welcome.

Bill Rankin
Chairman

TARTAN N' TINSEL BAZAAR

Saturday, October 31, 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

Dear Friends -

All too quickly summer, such as it was, is drawing to a close. It is time again to extend an invitation to people of all ages to volunteer their time and talents to prepare for, and to also participate at our **ANNUAL CHURCH BAZAAR**.

The list below briefly outlines the various boutiques we will have at the Bazaar (*more detailed information will be provided in the brochures, including the names and telephone numbers of the convenors, which will be available in the church pews sometime in September*).

FRIDAY - SET UP

Help set up tables and decorate.

TARTAN CAFÉ

Light snacks, muffins, breads, sandwiches, beverages

WESTMINSTER BAKE SHOPPE

Homemade cookies, pies, squares, loaves, cakes etc. Pickles, jams, jellies.

CHILDREN'S CORNER

Toys, games, puzzles, children's books in good condition.

MADAME DRESS UP BOUTIQUE

Good quality jewellery, pretty scarves, hair ornaments etc.

WOOLEN COMFORTS

Hand knitted articles. Mitts, scarves, hats, sweaters, baby outfits etc.

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Christmas ornaments, centre pieces, wreaths and all things relevant to Christmas.

COLLECTIBLE TREASURES

Treasure rarely or never used - crystal, china, silverware, cups/saucers, quality ornaments, antiques, etc.

THERE IS NO TOOL LIKE AN OLD TOOL

All types of small and power tools in good usable shape. Examples: woodworking tools; small drills; screw drivers, etc.

The convenors will appreciate very much hearing from you, whether you are offering help at the bazaar or donating items. There are many ways to volunteer your time. Even if you can only offer an hour or two on Saturday to help at one of the boutiques - it will be most appreciated. If Saturday is not convenient, do not despair, Friday, October 30th, is SET UP DAY. The convenors will more than welcome your presence in helping them to set-up their tables.

If you require more information or you wish to donate items but need help to deliver them to the church, please contact Bill Miller (613-596-1782) or John Tyler (613-729-7854) who will arrange for pick-up.

VOLUNTEER NOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS FUN WESTMINSTER FAMILY EVENT

Bazaar Coordinator

Mary Ann Tyler 613-729-7854

PLEASE NOTE: Garage Sale items and Books are NOT included in the bazaar. Please do not donate any items that fit into these two categories. If you are not certain as what is not to be donated, please contact - Mary Ann Tyler (613-729-7854)

Prayer Partner

Getting to know you And praying, caring, and thinking of you. These are words which reflect the Prayer Partner program at Westminster . The program matches Westminster adults with youth between the ages of 12 and 19. The adults include the young person in her/his thoughts and prayers every day. It is that easy! As well, you will discover the connection is meaningful and significant to both of you. I hope you will become a Prayer Partner. Please contact me at 613-721-5536 or e-mail at bjbone03@yahoo.ca.

Betty Jean Bone

Prayer Partner Coordinator

We are still in urgent need of some more volunteers to help keep the kitchens clean and tidy. Helpers are asked to be part of a team, each team being "on duty" for one month in four. Please call Sally and "Chico" Wallis

613-271-7492

FINANCIAL STATEMENT to END of JULY 2009

Hi all,

Summer is upon us, the lawn outside our windows is green and the weather is such that the cottage cannot be the draw it once was. Here is the financial summary to the end of July. It shows the receipts in July and the receipts to date. The "BUDGET TO DATE" shows how much of the budget should have been received/spent by now if we were to meet our budget goals. The 2008 figure is there for comparison and the annual budget is there for reference.

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS	JUL	09 YTD	BUDGET TD	08 YTD	BUDGET
Personal Donations - General	10,558	81,452	84,958	78,011	162,400
Use of Facilities	1,381	16,983	15,151	17,755	26,000
Church Group Events	90	3,301	5,838	5,810	10,000
Other	0	11	106	106	120
GENERAL FUND INCOME	12,029	101,747	106,054	101,682	198,520

GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	JUL	09 YTD	BUDGET TD	08 YTD	BUDGET
Salaries	9,117	69,147	72,493	69,916	122,240
Building Operations	1,914	31,157	23,983	27,753	36,451
Program Costs	10,290	28,094	22,725	20,277	40,853
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	21,320	128,398	119,201	117,946	199,544
GST / PST Recovery	0	0	0	0	-1,024
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	21,320	128,398	119,201	117,946	198,520
Excess Income - Expense	-9,291	-26,651	-13,147	-16,264	0

Predicted shift of Maintenance & Repair to Capital -4,550
ADJUSTED TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS 123,751
 Adjusted Excess(Income - Expense) -17,697

CAPITAL FUND RECEIPTS	JUL	09 YTD	08 YTD
Personal Donations - Capital	671	6,005	4,937
CAPITAL FUND EXPENSES	0	0	0

Predicted shift of Maintenance & Repair to Capital -4,550

As you can see, just over 6 months in, our Personal Donations lag our budget givings by \$3,500, although we have surpassed the total of our givings at this time last year, which is heartening. The prediction for the year end is that personal donations will be short of budget by \$7000.

On the expense side, Salaries are lagging the budget, but are expected to catch up by year end. Building Operations are also up, mainly due to heating gas and maintenance items. Program costs are also up, but the main contributor is having to replace the copier. The last one was proving unreliable and frustrating, and was classed as obsolescent by our maintainers. Since we depend heavily on its reliability for the Bulletin on Sunday amongst other things, we decided to grasp the nettle and replace it.

So, as always, the message is that we are doing really well, but the maintenance side of the building and the office equipment is not getting any cheaper and outstripping our income.

On another subject, we have been asked if it is not possible to have direct deposit to make it more convenient to contribute, rather than using the Church envelopes. PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance is a "direct debit" program run by the United Church, which is a very cost-effective way of providing this service.

1. What is PAR?

PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance is a "direct debit" program, administered by the United Church that allows people to support Westminster through an automatic monthly withdrawal from their bank account. Once a month all PAR givings are debited from givers accounts by the United Church and then the total, less a small service fee, is electronically transferred to Westminster's bank account.

2. What is needed for me to start PAR?

a) Complete an authorization card and attach a voided cheque for the account you want to use for your donations.

b) Complete a donation envelope indicating how you want your PAR donation to be split between Current, Capital and Special, and indicate what Special cause you are contributing to (e.g. Presbyterian Sharing, 507 Sandwiches or the like). Mark this envelope on the outside with PAR.

c) Put the card, the voided cheque and the donation envelope in the envelope provided and drop it on the plate or give it to Westminster's Treasurer or Envelope Secretary (currently Ian Firth / Heather McCurdie).

3. What if I don't use envelopes?

Note on a sheet of paper your name and address, and how you would normally want your contribution to be split between Current, Capital and Special, and indicate what Special cause you are contributing to. Put the note and a voided cheque in the envelope provided (there are some at the back of the Church) and drop it on the plate or give it to Westminster's Treasurer or Envelope Secretary.

4. What if I want to change how my contribution is allocated?

If it is a permanent change, complete another donation envelope, mark it PAR and give it to Westminster's Treasurer or Envelope Secretary. If it is a one off change for a particular Sunday or month, call the Treasurer or Envelope Secretary, who will make the adjustment for the period requested.

5. What if I want to make a one time special contribution, either to Westminster or some other cause?

You can still use your donation envelopes for this. If you are not using envelopes at present, you can still use the envelopes in the pews or a normal envelope, just make sure that your contact information is legible and complete.

6. What if I want to change the amount of my regular donation or change to a different bank account?

All changes of this nature go through Westminster's Treasurer or Envelope Secretary. They have forms to facilitate changes, additions and deletions to the system. When there is a change in banks or account numbers a voided cheque must be provided.

If the information mentioned above is received by the United Church from Westminster by the 10th of the month, Westminster will be on PAR for that month.

7. When are the transactions processed?

The debits from individual accounts and the lump sum credits to the congregational accounts happen on the 20th of each month (or the next business day if the 20th falls on a weekend). This date is not variable. (Please note that any changes need to be reported to us by the 10th of the month.) Credits to the church account are on the 20th (or preceding business day if the 20th falls on a weekend).

8. Is there a minimum number of people needed to go on PAR?

There is no minimum number of givers required by the United Church for Westminster to start the PAR program, but the more people on the program, the more beneficial to the church.

9. How much does PAR cost Westminster?

The PAR program costs Westminster 50¢ per giver, per month up to \$45 (90 or more people), which is deducted at the time of transfer. So the money is deducted from the donation, not in addition to the amount indicated on your PAR Authorization card. The charge helps to defray administrative costs incurred by the United Church. Individuals pay the normal chequing/debit fees to their local bank or credit union.

10. How is Westminster kept up-to-date about the givings?

A monthly print-out is sent to the Treasurer. These reports are produced by the United Church on the day the information is sent to the bank (generally the 15th of each month).

11. How are NSF cheques dealt with?

Because the debits and credits happen at the same time, Westminster will already have received credit for money that may not be in the giver's account. In

these instances, the individual giver's record is suspended until we are advised by Westminster's Treasurer or Envelope Secretary as to what is to be done. The records are also marked so that, in the following month, the United Church will deduct the amount from the monies forwarded to Westminster. Westminster then follows up with the individual giver about recovering the money and whether or not they wish to continue using the PAR program to support the congregation.

12. What if I feel uncomfortable about not putting something in the offering plate?

The PAR program offers small cards for the offering plate. The cards are printed with the words: "My offering has been given by Pre-Authorized Remittance". A supply will be put at the back of the Church.

13. Who is responsible for tax receipts?

The Envelope Secretary still does the tax receipts. The United Church of Canada just administers the collection program for Westminster.

This information is provided from the web-site of the United Church, which administers the PAR program. We have changed it only in that your donation will be allocated by Westminster, rather than by the PAR program. This allows you to change your allocation more easily by telling the Treasurer or Envelope Secretary, rather than having to go through the PAR program. If you want to investigate the PAR program yourself, the United Church web address is www.united-church.ca and search for PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)

14. When does Westminster intend to start PAR?

The plan is to start in October, so that people who are away until September are included in the initial submission. That means that the forms will be sent on October 1st and the October donation will be debited on October the 20th.

If you want to use PAR, print the form below, fill it out and drop it in the plate on Sunday.

If you have more questions, feel free to call the Treasurer , Ian Firth 613 825 1337 or e-mail ian.firth@sympatico.ca



PAR AUTHORIZATION CARD

I hereby request and authorize:

_____ Ian Firth _____

to cause a debit to be drawn on my account each month in the amount of \$ _____ as a contribution by me to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Ottawa..

Contributor's Name _____

Name of Financial Institution _____

Account Number _____

Type of Account _____

TO ENSURE ACCURACY A SAMPLE CHEQUE, MARKED "VOID", MUST ACCOMPANY THIS CARD.

_____ Signature of Contributor

_____ Date

This Authorization may be changed by the donor at any time.

The use, retention and disclosure of personal information collected from this form is done in compliance with privacy legislation including, but not limited to, the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (2000, c.5).